

**BEFORE THE ARIZONA BOARD OF  
OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINERS IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

IN THE MATTER OF:

) Case No. 2799  
)

BASEM MERI, D.O. )

Holder of License No. 3370 for the )  
practice of osteopathic medicine in the )  
State of Arizona. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS  
OF LAW AND SUMMARY SUSPENSION  
OF LICENSE**

The Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery (hereafter "Board") held a public meeting on June 10, 2000, regarding Basem Meri, D.O. (hereinafter "Respondent"). Following the Board's review of information and evidence obtained pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1855 and § 32-1855.01, and having considered the evidence and information in the matter and being fully advised, the Board enters the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order of Summary Suspension, pending proceedings for revocation or other action.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. The Board is empowered, pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1800, et seq. To regulate the licensing and practice of osteopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.
2. Respondent is a licensee of the Board and the holder of License No. 3370 for the practice of osteopathic medicine in the State of Arizona.
3. On August 22, 1998, during its public meeting, the Board reviewed Respondent's application for license during a public Board Meeting concerning the Respondent's medical history and prior addiction to a controlled substance and all other relevant issues concerning his qualifications to obtain a Board license. On August 22, 1998, the Board authorized preparation of an order granting Respondent a license to practice as an osteopathic physician in the State of

Arizona; and, said license was placed on probation and subject to specific requirements including, but not limited to, mandatory participation in random urine drug screens, attendance at required Board Impaired Physician committee meetings, and complete abstinence from alcohol and non-prescribed medications or illicit drugs.

4. On February 15, 2000 Respondent tested positive for Propoxyphene-N. Respondent informed the Board's Staff that he had been treated at Yuma Regional Hospital and that he forgot to put the medication on his required medication log.

5. On or about February 23, 2000, Respondent attended the Impaired Physician Meeting at informed the Board that he had changed treating physicians and was now being treated by Guerrero Zonis, M.D. Respondent informed the Board Staff that Dr. Zonis was prescribing him Celebrex, Elavil and Lortab. Upon questioning, Respondent informed Board Staff that he had provided a copy of his Board Order to Dr. Zonis.

6. On or about April 5, 2000, Respondent, upon questioning by Board Staff, asked whether or not he had informed Dr. Zonis of his Probationary Order. Respondent stated that he had informed Dr. Zonis that he was under probation for substance abuse.

7. On or about May 17, 2000, Respondent appeared at the Impaired Physician Meeting and once again informed Board Staff that he had informed Dr. Zonis of his probationary order.

8. On or about May 30, 2000, Respondent failed to appear for a required urine drug screen.

9. On or about June 5, 2000, Board staff telephoned Dr. Zonis to confirm that he was aware Respondent's probationary status and substance abuse problems. Dr. Zonis stated that Respondent had not informed him of that and, had he known, he would have treated Respondent differently.

7. In public session on June 10, 2000, Respondent admitted that he had not informed his treating physician of his probationary status. Respondent also admitted to taking samples of Ultram from his office for personal use.

8. In public session, the Board voted on June 10, 2000 that Respondent was medically and/or psychologically unable to engage in the practice of medicine and was an immediate threat to the health, safety and welfare of the public.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1800, et seq. the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and surgery has subject matter and personal jurisdiction in this matter.

2. The Board has the authority to summarily suspend an osteopathic license pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1855(C) and § 41-1064 when the physician may not safely engage in the practice of medicine and is an immediate threat to the public's health, welfare and safety.

### ORDER

#### **NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1855(C) and § 41-1064, **SUMMARILY SUSPENDING LICENSE NO. 3370 HELD BY BASEM MERI, D.O.** for the practice of osteopathic medicine in this State of Arizona effective <sup>June 10</sup> ~~March 4~~, 2000, pending further disciplinary proceedings or until <sup>at 6/14/00</sup> further Order of the Board.

2. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1855(C), that BASEM MERI, D.O. shall submit himself for such mental, physical or oral or written medical competency examinations or any combination thereof as will be designated by the Board. Such examinations shall be conducted by persons specified by the Board.

3. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 32-1855(C), this matter shall be heard by a Hearing Officer or the full Board within sixty (60) days.

ENTERED this 13th day of June, 2000.

ARIZONA BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINERS  
IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY

By: Ann Marie Berger  
Ann Marie Berger, Executive Director  
9535 E. Doubletree Ranch Rd.  
Scottsdale AZ 85258  
(480) 657-7703

Served by personal service or  
Certified Mail this 15<sup>th</sup> day  
of June, 1998 to:

Basem Meri, D.O.  
10398 Cony Ave.  
Yuma AZ 85367

A copy of the Summary Suspension  
Order was mailed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of  
June, 2000 to:

Blair Driggs  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General  
1275 W. Washington  
Phoenix AZ 85007

Tom Dennis  
Assistant Attorney General  
Solicitor General's Office  
1275 W. Washington  
Phoenix AZ 85007

Arizona Board of Pharmacy  
5060 N. 19th Ave., Suite 101  
Phoenix AZ 85015

Drug Enforcement Administration  
Attention: Diversion Section  
3010 N. 2nd St  
Phoenix AZ 85012

*Anita Boyd*

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